

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Coated strip product comprising a steel strip material and a coating, the coating comprising at least one electrically insulating layer of zirconia in direct contact with the steel strip material or in direct contact with an essentially metallic bond-coat which in turn is in direct contact with the steel strip material, wherein at least one additional layer of zirconia is deposited on top of the at least one layer of zirconia which is in direct contact with the steel strip material or in direct contact with a metallic bond-coat which in turn is in direct contact with the steel strip material, and wherein the steel strip material has a surface roughness of $R_a < 0.2 \mu\text{m}$.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): Coated strip product according to claim 1, wherein said coating and steel strip material have a thermal expansion mismatch of less than $\pm 25\%$ in the temperature range up to 1000°C , where the thermal expansion mismatch is defined as:

$$(\text{TEC}_{\text{ss}} - \text{TEC}_{\text{ox}}) / \text{TEC}_{\text{ss}}$$

where TEC_{ss} is the thermal expansion of said strip material and TEC_{ox} is the thermal expansion of said zirconia coating.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): Coated strip product according to claim 1, wherein the steel strip material has a surface roughness of $R_a < [[0.2]] \underline{0.1} \mu\text{m}$.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): Coated strip product according to claim 1, wherein the steel strip material has a thickness of 5 to 300 μm .

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Coated strip product according to claim 1, wherein a ferritic chromium strip steel material is used as the steel ~~[[metallic]]~~ strip material.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): Coated strip product according to claim 5, wherein said ferritic chromium strip steel material has a chromium content of at least 10% by weight.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): Coated strip product according to any of claim 1, wherein the steel strip material is coated with at least one zirconia layer on either side of the steel ~~[[metallic]]~~ strip material.

Claim 8 (Canceled):

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): Coated strip product according to any of claim 1, wherein the at least one layer of zirconia is stabilized zirconia.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): Coated strip product according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of the at least one zirconia layer is between 0.1 and 20 μm .

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): Coated strip product according to claim 1, wherein between the zirconia layer and the steel [[metallic]] strip material a metallic bond-coat is deposited to enhance the adhesion of the zirconia layer to the substrate.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): Coated strip product according to claim 1, wherein on top of the electrically insulating stabilized zirconia layer or layers a conducting metal layer is deposited, the metal layer selected from the group consisting of: aluminum, molybdenum, nickel, cobalt, copper, silver, gold and platinum, ~~most preferably aluminum, molybdenum, silver and copper.~~

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): Coated strip product according to claim 12, wherein the metal top layer has a thickness of between 0.01 and 5 μm .

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): Coated strip product according to claim 1 wherein the electrically insulating layer(s) is/are deposited by a spray technique, a vapor deposition technique, a dipping technique, or a sol-gel technique.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): Substrate material for the production of a flexible thin film product wherein the substrate material consists essentially of a coated product according to claim 1.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): Coated strip product according to claim 15, wherein the flexible thin film product is a Cu(In,Ga)Se_2 solar cell or a solid state thin film battery.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): Coated strip product according to claim 4, where the thickness is 10 to 100 μm .

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): Coated strip product according to claim 6, wherein the chromium content is at least 14% by weight.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): Coated strip product according to claim 18, wherein the chromium content is 16-25% by weight.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): Coated strip product according to claim 9, wherein the stabilized Zirconia is yttrium stabilized zirconia with a percentage of Y_2O_3 in a range of 0-25% by weight of said layer.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): Coated strip product according to claim 20, wherein the percentage of Y_2O_3 is in a range of 3-20% by weight of said layer.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): Coated strip product according to claim 21, wherein the percentage of Y_2O_3 is 5-15% by weight of said layer.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): Coated strip product according to claim 10, wherein the thickness is between 0.5 and 5 μm .

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): Coated strip product according to claim 11, wherein a metal of the metallic bond-coat is selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Ni and Cr.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): Coated strip product according to claim 14, wherein the spray technique is HVOF or plasma spraying.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): Coated strip product according to claim 14, wherein the vapor deposition technique is chemical vapor deposition or physical vapor deposition.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): Coated strip product according to claim 14, wherein the electrically insulating layer(s) is/are deposited by physical vapor deposition in a roll-to-roll electron beam evaporation process.